

Amendments to the Specification

Please add a new paragraph at line 9 of page 9 as follows:

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate specific embodiments of the present invention. In Figure 4, the outer layer 30 has been removed from a proximal portion and a distal portion to expose the braid reinforcement layer 50 comprising helical members 32 (individually designated as 32A and 32B) and the axial members 34. There are fewer axial members in the distal portion than the proximal portion. Figure 5 illustrates an embodiment in which eight axial members are uniformly spaced apart by 45° about the circumference of the shaft. The helical members 32 and the axial members 34A through 34H are each shown as a set of monofilaments 40, but may also comprise a single monofilament 40. The multi-layer construction includes the inner lubricious polymer layer 36 surrounded by the braid reinforcement layer 50 which, in turn, is surrounded by the outer layer 30. A tie layer 38 may be provided between the braid reinforcement layer 50 and the inner lubricious layer 36.